

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of automatically providing server affinities for related concurrent connection
2 requests in networking environments which perform workload balancing, comprising steps of:
3 selectively activating an affinity for a particular server application;
4 routing a first connection request to the particular server application from a selected
5 source; and
6 bypassing normal workload balancing operations, responsive to the selective activation,
7 for subsequent concurrent connection requests for the particular server application from the
8 selected source while at least one such concurrent connection request remains active.

1 2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selected source is a selected client.

1 3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the selected client is identified by its Internet
2 Protocol ("IP") address.

1 4. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the selected client is identified by its Internet
2 Protocol ("IP") address and port number.

1 5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of selectively activating further
2 comprises the step of detecting an automatic affinity activation parameter on a configuration
3 statement for the particular server application.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the bypassing step causes the subsequent connection request messages from the selected source to be routed to an instance of the particular server application which is processing the first connection request.

7. A method of automatically routing related concurrent connection requests in a networking environment which performs workload balancing, comprising steps of:

storing information for one or more automatic affinities, responsive to receiving a selective activation message from each of one or more server applications;

receiving incoming connection requests from client applications; and

routing each received connection request to a particular one of the server applications,

further comprising steps of:

selecting the particular one of the server applications using the stored information for automatic affinities, when the client application sending the received connection request is identified in the stored information as having an existing connection to the particular one and wherein one of the selective activation messages has been received from the particular one; and

selecting the particular one of the server applications using workload balancing otherwise.

8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the client application is identified as having one of the existing connections with the particular one if a destination address and destination port, as well as a source address and optionally a source port number, of the connection request being routed match the stored information.

1 9. A system for automatically providing server affinities for related concurrent connection
2 requests in networking environments which perform workload balancing, comprising:

3 means for selectively activating an affinity for a particular server application;

4 means for routing a first connection request to the particular server application from a
5 selected source; and

6 means for bypassing normal workload balancing operations, responsive to the selective
7 activation, for subsequent concurrent connection requests for the particular server application
8 from the selected source while at least one such concurrent connection request remains active.

1 10. The system according to Claim 9, wherein the selected source is a selected client.

1 11. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the selected client is identified by its Internet
2 Protocol ("IP") address.

1 12. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the selected client is identified by its Internet
2 Protocol ("IP") address and port number.

1 13. The system according to Claim 9, wherein the means for selectively activating further
2 comprises means for detecting an automatic affinity activation parameter on a configuration
3 statement for the particular server application.

1 14. The system according to Claim 9, wherein the means for bypassing causes the subsequent
2 connection request messages from the selected source to be routed to an instance of the particular
3 server application which is processing the first connection request.

1 15. A system for automatically routing related concurrent connection requests in a networking
2 environment which performs workload balancing, comprising:

3 means for storing information for one or more automatic affinities, responsive to receiving
4 a selective activation message from each of one or more server applications;

5 means for receiving incoming connection requests from client applications; and

6 means for routing each received connection request to a particular one of the server
7 applications, further comprising:

8 means for electing the particular one of the server applications using the stored
9 information for automatic affinities, when the client application sending the received connection
10 request is identified in the stored information as having an existing connection to the particular
11 one and wherein one of the selective activation messages has been received from the particular
12 one; and

13 means for selecting the particular one of the server applications using workload
14 balancing otherwise.

1 16. The system according to Claim 15, wherein the client application is identified as having
2 one of the existing connections with the particular one if a destination address and destination
3 port, as well as a source address and optionally a source port number, of the connection request

4 being routed match the stored information.

1 17. A computer program product for automatically providing server affinities for related
2 concurrent connection requests in networking environments which perform workload balancing,
3 the computer program product embodied on one or more computer readable media and
4 comprising:

5 computer readable program code means for selectively activating an affinity for a
6 particular server application;

7 computer readable program code means for routing a first connection request to the
8 particular server application from a selected source; and

9 computer readable program code means for bypassing normal workload balancing
10 operations, responsive to the selective activation, for subsequent concurrent connection requests
11 for the particular server application from the selected source while at least one such concurrent
12 connection request remains active.

1 18. The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the selected source is a
2 selected client.

1 19. The computer program product according to Claim 18, wherein the selected client is
2 identified by its Internet Protocol ("IP") address.

1 20. The computer program product according to Claim 18, wherein the selected client is

identified by its Internet Protocol ("IP") address and port number.

21. The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the computer readable program code means for selectively activating further comprises computer readable program code means for detecting an automatic affinity activation parameter on a configuration statement for the particular server application.

22. The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the computer readable program code means for bypassing causes the subsequent connection request messages from the selected source to be routed to an instance of the particular server application which is processing the first connection request.

23. A computer program product for automatically routing related concurrent connection requests in a networking environment which performs workload balancing, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer readable media and comprising:

computer readable program code means for storing information for one or more automatic affinities, responsive to receiving a selective activation message from each of one or more server applications;

computer readable program code means for receiving incoming connection requests from client applications; and

computer readable program code means for routing each received connection request to a particular one of the server applications, further comprising:

11 computer readable program code means for electing the particular one of the
12 server applications using the stored information for automatic affinities, when the client
13 application sending the received connection request is identified in the stored information as
14 having an existing connection to the particular one and wherein one of the selective activation
15 messages has been received from the particular one; and

16 computer readable program code means for selecting the particular one of the
17 server applications using workload balancing otherwise.

1 24. The computer program product according to Claim 23, wherein the client application is
2 identified as having one of the existing connections with the particular one if a destination address
3 and destination port, as well as a source address and optionally a source port number, of the
4 connection request being routed match the stored information.